



2014 Accomplishments

Jobs

1. Created a Commercial Aeronautical Zone (CAZ), in collaboration with City Council and support from the El Paso County Commissioners and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Board, to stimulate economic activity within the Airport property. This effort created nearly 100 new jobs in Southeast Colorado Springs in 2014.
2. Mayor led a collaborative effort with the Pikes Peak Region Mayors Caucus, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and the Colorado Department of Transportation to widen I-25 alleviating congestion and improving traveler safety which contribute to regional economic vitality.
3. Council adopted Executive Branch staff recommendations to reduce licensing regulations and fees and streamline requirements in an effort to improve the Business Climate.
4. City named #1 Small Business Friendly City in the Nation by Thumbtack.com, a consumer service company that ranks organization to link customers to quality service providers.
5. Worked with Council to complete a performance-based Economic Development Agreement with Kinder Morgan that resulted in the retention of over 400 high paying jobs in our Downtown core.
6. After completing an Economic Development Agreement with Bal Seal Engineering through collaboration with Council, celebrated the ribbon cutting of this existing local Primary Employer's new 154,000 square foot medical manufacturing facility. This resulted in over 200 new high tech medical manufacturing jobs and the retention of an additional 40 jobs.
7. Completed 12 formal Rapid Response projects with Colorado Springs Utilities, El Paso County, Regional Building and other agencies, expediting the approval of Land Use Applications and the issuance of Building Permits for significant expansions or relocations by businesses in our community. These Council-collaborated projects were in support of an estimated 839 new jobs and 140 retained jobs in our City. They also resulted in an estimated \$214 million in commercial construction spending covering an estimated 3.8 million square feet.
8. Mayor maintained regular communications with and provided updates to over 450 Primary Employers throughout the year to encourage their continued success and support the City's goal of becoming the most business - and citizen - friendly in the nation.
9. Mayor engaged several Primary Employers considering locating operations in Colorado Springs and continues to encourage further interest in making this City their destination of choice.

10. The City's Mountain Metro Transit re-established weekend and holiday bus service and extended service to Powers Boulevard to increase employment opportunities for people who rely on public transportation.
11. The Airport continued its cost reduction program identifying additional operating inefficiencies that totaled over \$3 million in annual savings. This cost reduction, in addition to nearly \$3 million in lower annual debt service allowed the Airport to incentivize Allegiant to offer new air service to Phoenix-Mesa and has placed the Airport in a much better position to recruit new air service in 2015.
12. The Airport opened a Premier Lounge and launched a VIP travel membership program for frequent travelers.
13. Increased proactive safety measures Downtown-- assigned more police officers, implemented variable street lighting and opened the Peak substation.
14. Finalized a formal Resolution with the Colorado Economic Development Commission which completed the historic approval of an estimated \$120 million award to the City of Colorado Springs under the State's Regional Tourism Act for the City for Champions project.
15. Formed an Infill Steering Committee which is actively engaged in recommending solutions to support infill and redevelopment throughout the City.
16. Pikes Peak broke a 1971 visitors record attracting 345,701 to America's Mountain and opened the Pikes Peak Highway to bicyclists attracting enthusiasts worldwide.
17. Added four miles of new bike lanes to improve non-motorized commuter connections and implemented several new bike lane initiatives to help cyclists and motorists share the road.
18. Garden of the Gods named #1 Park in the USA by Trip Advisor attracting more than two million visitors annually.
19. The City partnered with the Switchbacks FC bringing \$3 million in privately funded improvements to the Sand Creek Soccer Stadium at Coleman Park and professional soccer to our community.
20. Completed Phase I of the Manitou Incline project to improve safety, enhance user experience, increase accessibility and ensure long-term sustainability of this popular trail.
21. Partnered with the Sports Corp and others to encourage USA Ultimate to relocate its offices with over 20 staff members to Colorado Springs.
22. Streamlined Special Event permit process facilitating a 21 percent increase in permits issued from 2013 to 2014 (311 to 377).

23. Formed Economic Opportunity Zones (EOZ) Implementation Solution Teams lead by community leaders and including City Councilors to develop Action Plans for Southeast Colorado Springs and the North Nevada Corridor aimed at encouraging and facilitating investment and economic growth in these areas.
24. Collaborated with City Council in using \$2 million from our Emergency Reserves for critical street repairs with all funds going to local contractors to support local jobs.
25. Widened segments of Austin Bluffs Parkway Corridor to six lanes alleviating congestion for one of the City's major east/west commuter corridors.

Transforming City Government

1. Advanced the City's 2014-2018 Mayoral Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives through continued priorities-based strategic planning management including breakthrough strategies and measurable outcomes for every operating function.
2. Collaborated with City Council in development of Mayor's 2015 General Fund Budget, resulting in Council approving the Budget without any suggested change.
3. Mayor responded to Council's concerns that Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services \$60 million annual spending be protected by establishing a new, sixth appropriating department for 2015. Parks was previously included in the larger Parks, Planning and Public Works Department for years with annual funding approved by Council.
4. Enhanced public safety and by 2014 added 66 police officers, 28 community service officers and 42 firefighters, putting the most boots on the ground since Mayor Bach took office.
5. Invested approximately \$24 million to complete several high priority stormwater projects including the Mirage Channel and critical drainage along 8th Street to avert flooding.
6. Public Works developed with Council approval a new Drainage Criteria Manual and Water Quality Manual to improve methods for handling stormwater runoff, help protect the City's water resources and increase the benefit to human health, fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.
7. Mayor signed an exclusive Emergency Ground Ambulance Contract with American Medical Response generating over \$1.17 million in annual extraordinary cost recovery for the City and improving service and response times while restraining costs to consumers. Council approved termination of the existing regional intergovernmental agreement which facilitated the City contracting services through this local agency.

8. Outsourced City Fleet Maintenance to Serco, a Primary Employer with local operations, which is on track to meet projected savings of \$4.2 million over five years.
9. Identified \$3.96 million in efficiencies in the 2015 General Fund Budget that was reallocated to fund highest priority core services.
10. Implemented a pay for performance system, including performance standards, to attract and retain the most qualified work force.
11. Launched a new online Election Campaign Finance filing system providing more transparency through increased access to documents relating to campaign efforts.
12. Implemented new legislative software to improve public access to the City Council agenda process increasing Council accountability and transparency.
13. Mayor Bach appointed a new Aviation Director, Chief of Staff, City Attorney and Public Works Director.
14. Hired new Airport marketing and communications manager to increase Airport travel and highlight benefits of flying COS.
15. City Attorney Wynetta Massey recognized as Attorney of the Year by the Metro City Attorney's Association.
16. Dan Gallagher recognized as Public Employee of the Year by the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance.
17. Airport completed a xeriscaping project, reducing terminal water utilization by over 40 percent, saving nearly 14 million gallons of water annually.
18. Streets Department transformed snow removal processes, utilizing more cost-effective and environmentally friendly de-icers to pre-treat roadways.
19. Streets Department improved communication with Office of Emergency Management, CSPD, CSFD and local school districts to prioritize emergency and school routes increasing the level of service by responding as needed to areas with more severe and dangerous conditions.
20. Enhanced the "Community Assistance Referral Education Services (CARES)" providing clinics and in-home visits to help citizens improve their health. The program earned State recognition and statistics are already proving a reduction in chronic, repeat medical calls and better health outcomes for citizens.
21. Completed emergency flood mitigation and repair projects for North Douglas Creek, Camp Creek and Cheyenne Creek that resulted from the September 2013 historic 500 year rainstorm.

22. Used a portion of Emergency Reserves for repairs to a number of high priority Waldo Canyon Fire flood mitigation projects as well as critical road repairs needed after a challenging 2013/2014 winter and decades of the City not providing adequate streets pavement replacements.
23. Implemented e-citation electronic ticketing software to reduce time required to issue citations allowing officers to respond to additional services calls.
24. Hosted four-day FEMA Integrated Management Course for City staff and regional partners to enhance their ability to respond to major incidents in the Pikes Peak Region.
25. Office of Emergency Management orchestrated "SkyFall," a Citywide mass casualty emergency response exercise at the Airport involving 46 agencies and 1,000 participants.
26. Conducted an evacuation drill in the Pulpit Rock neighborhood that included participation by City agencies and local partners to reinforce community wildfire preparedness and practice evacuation procedures.
27. Launched new City website www.coloradosprings.gov to enhance the City image and increase citizen access to and ease with finding information.
28. Rebuilt Springs TV studio to provide more local programming for residents and expanded information offerings to enhance communications between the City and community.
29. Implemented credit card acceptance at City Parking Garages and on-street parking meters.
30. Completed phases II and III of the Pioneers Museum exterior renovation project and secured full funding for phase IV to preserve and restore 1903 El Paso County Courthouse.
31. Retrofitted 17 park irrigation systems and installed 45 "smart" irrigation controllers to improve efficiency and save water reducing operating costs.
32. Forestry completed forest restoration projects on 77 acres in Red Rock Canyon, 23 acres in Ute Valley Park, 30 acres in Palmer Park and 3.5 miles along City trail corridors.
33. Repurposed Skyview Sports Complex playing fields with new synthetic turf, saving the City more than \$185,000 annually in reduced water and maintenance costs and increasing the number of tournaments hosted from six in 2012 to 40 in 2014.
34. Public Works visited with multiple Home Owners Associations, held community meetings to explain maintenance processes and procedures and hosted a Touch-a-Truck event to improve public engagement.
35. Assisted with the Memorial Health System transition to University of Colorado Health management and formation/operation of the Colorado Springs Health Foundation.
36. Developed the "Office of the City Attorney Legal Ethics Guidelines" formally establishing written procedures for representation of all City entities under the new form government.

37. Developed online discovery request process for Municipal Court defendants and counsel to submit and receive requests electronically, reducing the costs for discovery.
38. Between 2013 and 2014, the City Attorney's Office Prosecution Division was able to handle a 46 percent increase in Municipal Court case load with a 21.25 percent reduction in Prosecution attorney staff.

Building Community

1. Hosted six Community Forums with Council participation on Backlogged City Capital Projects to gain input from residents on most critical infrastructure needs around the City, including neighborhood streets, storm water, public safety facilities and parks infrastructure
2. Further solidified Colorado Springs as "America's Olympic City" when Mayor and Council welcomed Ancient Olympia as its seventh Sister City to enhance the unique relationship our community has with the modern Olympic movement.
3. Mayor's community building efforts encompassed more than 120 events throughout the year engaging local non-profits, neighborhood organizations, educators, media, City staff, military and other elected officials.
4. Mayor Bach presented 58 Spirit of the Springs awards recognizing outstanding accomplishments in our community. This program recognizes citizens and organizations that embody the Spirit of Colorado Springs like Tim McGruder who saved a baby on a train track, Cheyenne Mountain High School Athletic Teams and Rampart High School students Bridger Caicedo and Jenny Yates who initiated a letter writing campaign advocating Venezia Park.
5. Mayor and Suzi Bach launched the Initiative to End Homelessness in Colorado Springs, modeled, in part, after the Housing and Urban Development Plan and the Denver, Colorado approach. The plan's goals are to raise awareness about homelessness, build a collaborative model for community response and quickly invest in urgent needs.
6. Conducted an affordable housing needs assessment in partnership with El Paso County to identify gaps in affordable housing and practices for investment.
7. 2014 Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament raised \$68,000 that provided nine full-tuition secondary education scholarships to local students and sponsored more than 200 youth to participate in The First Tee, a youth development organization that teaches life-enhancing values through the game of golf. College scholarships were awarded through Pikes Peak Community College for students pursuing a career in public safety.
8. Expanded Ticket to Success program from 14 to 50 students further fostering an interest in City government careers. This two-year track introduces middle school students to City operations and senior staff in an effort to encourage the students' interest in future City government careers. The goal is to grow our future City government leadership

9. Expanded Community Advancing Public Safety (CAPS) volunteer program to 630 volunteers and was recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for Outstanding Achievement in Law Enforcement Volunteer Programs.
10. CSPD's Victims Advocacy Unit recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for Excellence in Victim Services.
11. As of 2014, Mayor Bach, Suzi Bach and members of the Executive Team delivered Welcome Home Baskets to 155 of the families who lost homes and rebuilt in Mountain Shadows following the Waldo Canyon Fire.
12. Collaborated with the community to create a new 10-year Parks and Recreation System Master Plan providing accessibility, future development and funding strategies.
13. Announced the upcoming development of John Venezia Community Park, which will provide a long-awaited recreational space in the northeast part of the City.
14. First City in Colorado to launch the Accessible Icon Project, replacing the original handicap International Symbol of Access with a new, more active symbol to reflect our evolving perceptions of people with disabilities.
15. Established Joint Information System protocols and enhanced regional emergency communications to provide vital public information during times of emergency.
16. Six neighborhood playground renovations and multiple playground resurfacing and ADA ramps completed in City parks.
17. The City successfully applied for and received \$31.9 million in grant funding for various City programs and projects, including Airport, Parks, Police, Fire, Housing, Homeless Services, Streets, Stormwater and Transit Services.
18. Completed renovations to Memorial Park including new playgrounds and improved tennis and handball courts.
19. Airport hosted Pikes Peak Regional Airshow and the Airstrip Attack attracting more than 22,000 visitors to these two events. The Airstrip Attack was a first of its kind event brings the racetrack to the Airport runaway.
20. Hosted Stage 4 of the 2014 USA Pro Cycling Challenge attracting thousands of visitors to Colorado Springs and highlighting Colorado Springs to an international audience.
21. Opened new Mountain Shadows Park playground and dedicated a Waldo Canyon Fire Memorial.
22. CSFD created a Community Response Team (CRT1), in cooperation with CSPD and Aspen Pointe and funded through a \$1 million grant over three years – a team specifically designed to provide behavioral health services in the field with a multi-disciplinary staff that directs patients to the proper level and type of care while freeing up valuable resources.
23. Established the Hillside Community Center Food Pantry in partnership with Mercy Springs Church and Springs Rescue Mission.

24. In partnership with local partner agencies, added 158 winter shelter beds providing more safe accommodations for our homeless community.
25. Completed backlog of housing rehabilitation projects providing over 50 families with needed health and safety improvements for their homes.
26. Collaborative efforts by Office of Emergency Management, Public Works, City Communications and the Regional Building Department improved the City's Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance Program reducing floodplain insurance premiums by 5 percent within the City limits. The City's voluntary participation in the program provides residents an overall 20 percent reduction in flood insurance premiums.
27. The City's Mountain Metro Transit established service to the new Veteran's Administration Clinic and increased bus frequency to the El Paso County Citizens Service Center connecting citizens to vital services.
28. In cooperation with Colorado Springs Utilities, opened South Slope Recreation Area on Pikes Peak for fishing, hiking and biking after being closed for more than 100 years.
29. Constructed the "Bankers Loop" single track mountain biking trail minutes from downtown providing a unique biking opportunity for professionals.
30. In collaboration with the department's community centers Parks staff at North Cheyenne Canon Park developed a new summer camp for children from low income families.
31. Celebrated the 37th year of Tree City USA illustrating our commitment to urban forest management.